

**§ 493.1826 Suspension of part of Medicare payments.**

(a) *Application.* (1) CMS may impose this sanction if a laboratory—

(i) Is found to have condition level deficiencies with respect to one or more specialties or subspecialties of tests; and

(ii) Agrees (in return for not having its Medicare approval cancelled immediately) not to charge Medicare beneficiaries or their private insurance carriers for the services for which Medicare payment is suspended.

(2) CMS suspends Medicare payment for those specialties or subspecialties of tests for which the laboratory is out of compliance with Federal requirements.

(b) *Procedures.* Before imposing this sanction, CMS provides notice of sanction and opportunity to respond in accordance with § 493.1810.

(c) *Duration and effect of sanction.* This sanction continues until the laboratory corrects the condition level deficiencies or CMS cancels the laboratory's approval to receive Medicare payment for its services, but in no event longer than 12 months.

(1) If the laboratory corrects all condition level deficiencies, CMS resumes Medicare payment effective for all services furnished on or after the date the deficiencies are corrected.

(2) [Reserved]

[57 FR 7237, Feb. 28, 1992; 57 FR 35761, Aug. 11, 1992]

**§ 493.1828 Suspension of all Medicare payments.**

(a) *Application.* (1) CMS may suspend payment for all Medicare-approved laboratory services when the laboratory has condition level deficiencies.

(2) CMS suspends payment for all Medicare covered laboratory services when the following conditions are met:

(i) Either—

(A) The laboratory has not corrected its condition level deficiencies included in the plan of correction within 3 months from the last date of inspection; or

(B) The laboratory has been found to have the same condition level deficiencies during three consecutive inspections; and

(ii) The laboratory has chosen (in return for not having its Medicare approval immediately cancelled), to not charge Medicare beneficiaries or their private insurance carriers for services for which Medicare payment is suspended.

(3) CMS suspends payment for services furnished on and after the effective date of sanction.

(b) *Procedures.* Before imposing this sanction, CMS provides notice of sanction and opportunity to respond in accordance with § 493.1810.

(c) *Duration and effect of sanction.* (1) Suspension of payment continues until all condition level deficiencies are corrected, but never beyond twelve months.

(2) If all the deficiencies are not corrected by the end of the 12 month period, CMS cancels the laboratory's approval to receive Medicare payment for its services.

**§ 493.1832 Directed plan of correction and directed portion of a plan of correction.**

(a) *Application.* CMS may impose a directed plan of correction as an alternative sanction for any laboratory that has condition level deficiencies. If CMS does not impose a directed plan of correction as an alternative sanction for a laboratory that has condition level deficiencies, it at least imposes a directed portion of a plan of correction when it imposes any of the following alternative sanctions:

(1) State onsite monitoring.

(2) Civil money penalty.

(3) Suspension of all or part of Medicare payments.

(b) *Procedures*—(1) *Directed plan of correction.* When imposing this sanction, CMS—

(i) Gives the laboratory prior notice of the sanction and opportunity to respond in accordance with § 493.1810;

(ii) Directs the laboratory to take specific corrective action within specific time frames in order to achieve compliance; and

(iii) May direct the laboratory to submit the names of laboratory clients for notification purposes, as specified in paragraph (b)(3) of this section.

(2) *Directed portion of a plan of correction.* CMS may decide to notify clients

of a sanctioned laboratory, because of the seriousness of the noncompliance (e.g., the existence of immediate jeopardy) or for other reasons. When imposing this sanction, CMS takes the following steps—

(i) Directs the laboratory to submit to CMS, the State survey agency, or other CMS agent, within 10 calendar days after the notice of the alternative sanction, a list of names and addresses of all physicians, providers, suppliers, and other clients who have used some or all of the services of the laboratory since the last certification inspection or within any other timeframe specified by CMS.

(ii) Within 30 calendar days of receipt of the information, may send to each laboratory client, via the State survey agency, a notice containing the name and address of the laboratory, the nature of the laboratory's noncompliance, and the kind and effective date of the alternative sanction.

(iii) Sends to each laboratory client, via the State survey agency, notice of the rescission of an adverse action within 30 days of the rescission.

(3) *Notice of imposition of a principal sanction following the imposition of an alternative sanction.* If CMS imposes a principal sanction following the imposition of an alternative sanction, and for which CMS has already obtained a list of laboratory clients, CMS may use that list to notify the clients of the imposition of the principal sanction.

(c) *Duration of a directed plan of correction.* If CMS imposes a directed plan of correction, and on revisit it is found that the laboratory has not corrected the deficiencies within 12 months from the last day of inspection, the following rules apply:

(1) CMS cancels the laboratory's approval for Medicare payment of its services, and notifies the laboratory of CMS's intent to suspend, limit, or revoke the laboratory's CLIA certificate.

(2) The directed plan of correction continues in effect until the day suspension, limitation, or revocation of the laboratory's CLIA certificate.

#### §493.1834 Civil money penalty.

(a) *Statutory basis.* Sections 1846 of the Act and 353(h)(2)(B) of the PHS Act authorize the Secretary to impose civil

money penalties on laboratories. Section 1846(b)(3) of the Act specifically provides that incrementally more severe fines may be imposed for repeated or uncorrected deficiencies.

(b) *Scope.* This section sets forth the procedures that CMS follows to impose a civil money penalty in lieu of, or in addition to, suspending, limiting, or revoking the certificate of compliance, registration certificate, certificate of accreditation, or certificate for PPM procedures of a laboratory that is found to have condition level deficiencies.

(c) *Basis for imposing a civil money penalty.* CMS may impose a civil money penalty against any laboratory determined to have condition level deficiencies regardless of whether those deficiencies pose immediate jeopardy.

(d) *Amount of penalty—(1) Factors considered.* In determining the amount of the penalty, CMS takes into account the following factors:

(i) The nature, scope, severity, and duration of the noncompliance.

(ii) Whether the same condition level deficiencies have been identified during three consecutive inspections.

(iii) The laboratory's overall compliance history including but not limited to any period of noncompliance that occurred between certifications of compliance.

(iv) The laboratory's intent or reason for noncompliance.

(v) The accuracy and extent of laboratory records and their availability to CMS, the State survey agency, or other CMS agent.

(2) *Range of penalty amount.* (i) For a condition level deficiency that poses immediate jeopardy, the range is \$3,050–\$10,000 per day of noncompliance or per violation.

(ii) For a condition level deficiency that does not pose immediate jeopardy, the range is \$50–\$3,000 per day of noncompliance or per violation.

(3) *Decreased penalty amounts.* If the immediate jeopardy is removed, but the deficiency continues, CMS shifts the penalty amount to the lower range.

(4) *Increased penalty amounts.* CMS may, before the hearing, propose to increase the penalty amount for a laboratory that has deficiencies which, after imposition of a lower level penalty